



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

ERIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Greetings All,

I did not think I would be writing again about the pandemic in 2021, but yet again, Erie Police Department employees were masked throughout the year. As we were already versed with masking, social distancing and repeatedly washing our hands, other than beards hidden behind some of our masks, we did well.

I took the liberty to provide highlights:

Non-Sworn

- Municipal Court staff researched and implemented new Court software.
- During two Drug Take Back days, Property/Evidence collected 272 pounds of prescription drugs.
- The process for licensing dogs in our Town is now free!

Detectives

- They worked a possible kidnapping with our FBI counterparts which occurred in Mexico and involved a family who owned a restaurant in the Town. The family member was released without being harmed.
- Completed numerous background investigations for potential new police officers or cadets.
- Maintained a case clearance rate of over 30 percent.

SROs

- The team worked with SVVSD and the NAACP to establish guidelines surrounding juvenile contacts at the schools.
- Our SRO Cadre was recognized for their contribution to school safety by Superintendent Don Haddad and the SVVSD School Board.
- Our SROs willingly adjusted their schedules so that appropriate coverage was maintained in EHS, EMS, and Soaring Heights.

Patrol

- Patrol was able to maintain their minimum staffing every day and every shift of the year.
- Every sworn member maintained their POST certification by completing all required training.
- We extensively trained seven new police officers and are all now operating in a solo capacity.

Other

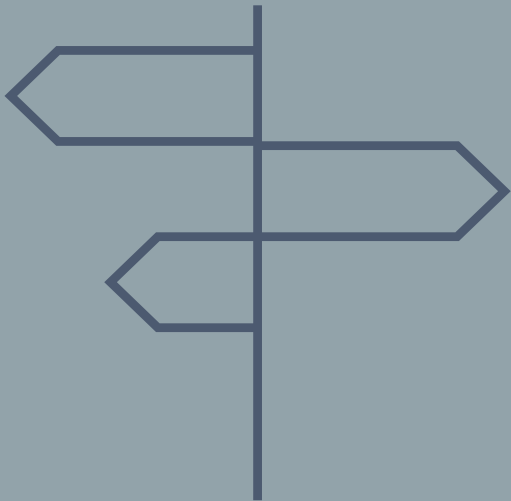
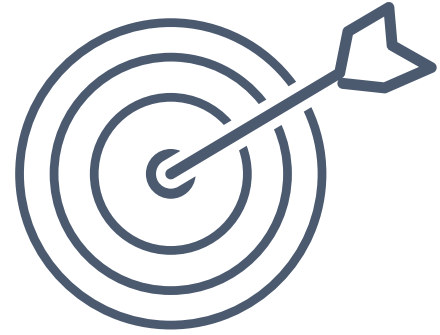
- Our Traffic Team began in August. With two officers and a sergeant, their focus was primarily on education and enforcement as needed.
- Erie Officers made 87 DUI arrests, completed 93 bike rides, provided 638 code enforcement notices, conducted 252 traffic enforcement efforts at high crash locations, and produced 78 social media crime alerts or crime prevention posts.

The culture of our department is one of teamwork, dedication, and compassion. We continue to be here to serve. Thank you, Erie for your grace and support!

Kimberly Stewart

MISSION

Serving and protecting our community with honor.



VALUES

As members of the Erie Police Department, we proudly commit to the following values that will be used to guide our daily thoughts and actions:

Integrity

Compassion

Dedication

Accountability

Impartiality

Excellence

Courage

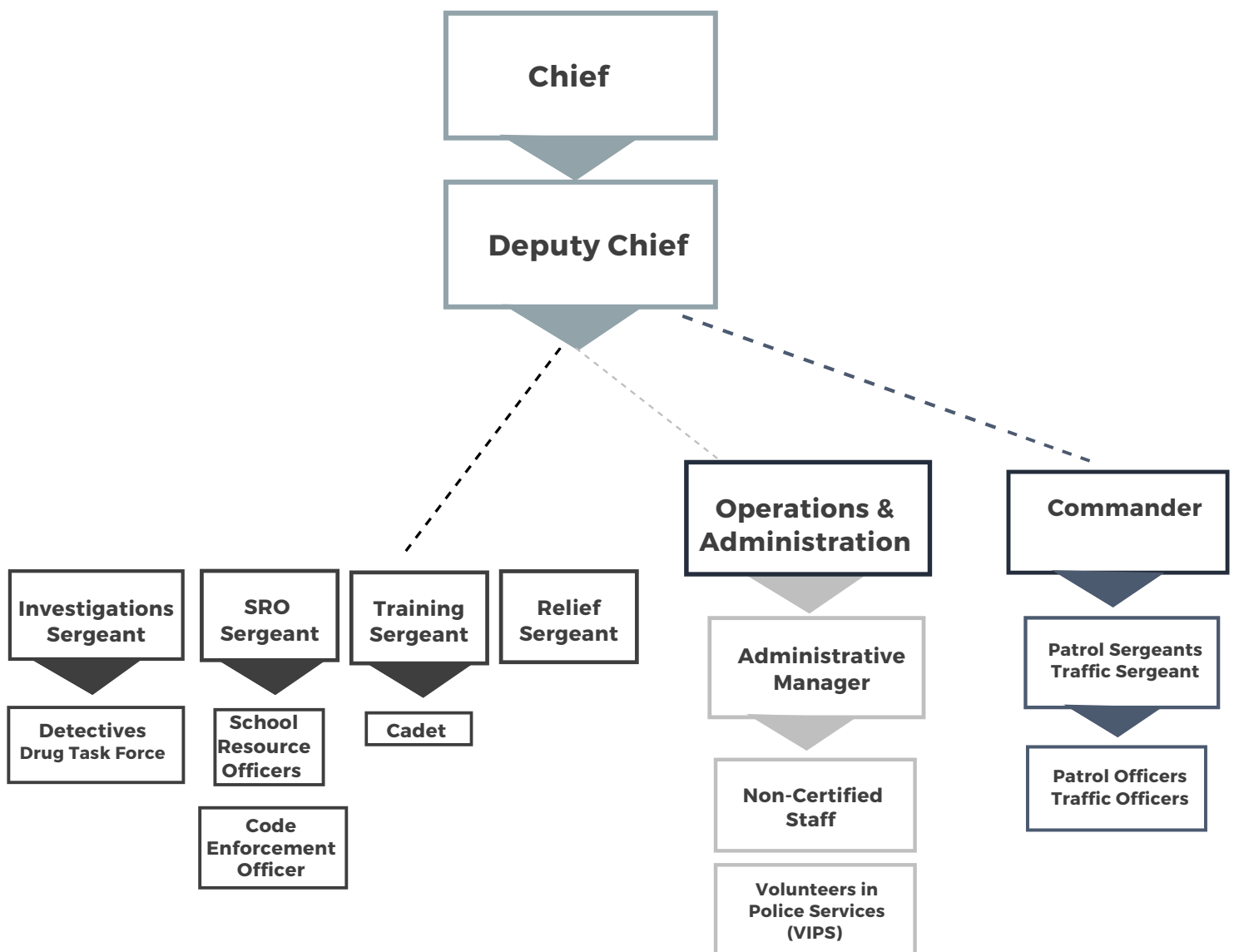
VISION

To be highly trained police professionals committed to our community.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

By the end of 2021, the Erie Police Department serves 30,000 residents of Erie, Colorado with a patrolling responsibility of 48 square miles. The Chief currently oversees 44 state-certified officers and 7.5 non-certified staff. Additionally, 21 volunteers support Police operations. The Deputy Chief provides oversight for Operations and Administration. The Commander is directly responsible for Patrol.



SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

School Resource Officers provide valuable, law-related supplementary education for students in the schools they serve in the Saint Vrain Valley School District.

FIELD TRAINING OFFICER

All new officers receive field training from a training officer regarding the Town of Erie Police Department's directives and procedures, as well as how to be an effective police officer.

HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard is comprised of county-wide officers who present the flag at events, including awards ceremonies, funerals, and community events. The Erie Police Department has two officers on the Boulder County team.

PEER SUPPORT TEAM

The goal of peer support is to provide assistance through times of personal or professional crisis, as well as anticipate and address potential difficulties. The team is comprised of sworn and non-sworn members.

DRUG TASK FORCE

The Boulder County Drug Task Force investigations involve complex and unconventional approaches to law enforcement. One officer from the Erie Police Department is selected to serve as a detective.

LGBTQ LIAISON

The LGBTQ Liaison is an advocate for members of the LGBTQ community. The liaison builds strong relationships and encourages reporting of hate crimes.

RANGE OFFICER

The Range Officer is responsible for ensuring all Erie Police Officers are qualified per POST standards. In addition, the Range Officer provides training for a variety of shooting situations.

SWAT

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is used in high-risk incidents when disciplined teamwork, specialized weapons, and tactical skills are required, such as incidents involving barricaded subjects or hostages. The Erie Police Department has one officer on the Boulder County team.

COMMUNITY

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

In 2021, the four school resource officers, and their sergeant, worked with the Saint Vrain Valley School District and the NAACP to establish guidelines surrounding juvenile contacts at the schools. They were recognized for their contribution to safety by the superintendent and school board. All of this wouldn't have happened without adjusting other commitments to maintain proper coverage in Erie High School, Erie Middle School, and Soaring Heights.



30 BY 2030 INITIATIVE



Department-wide, including non-sworn positions, the Police Department is 37 percent female. A nationwide effort to increase the representation of women in police is deemed '30 by 30' and Erie was proud to report this was achieved in 2021. Of the 13 female certified officers, 6 serve in patrol, 3 are sergeants, 2 detectives, 1 school resource officer, and the Chief.

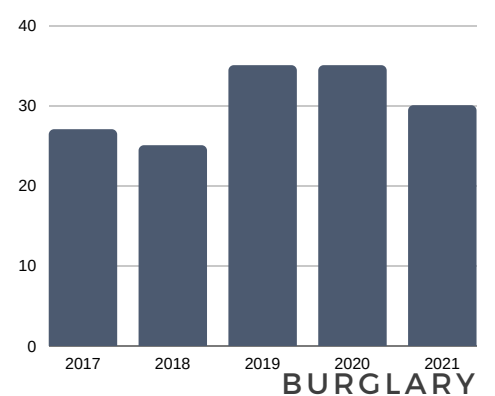
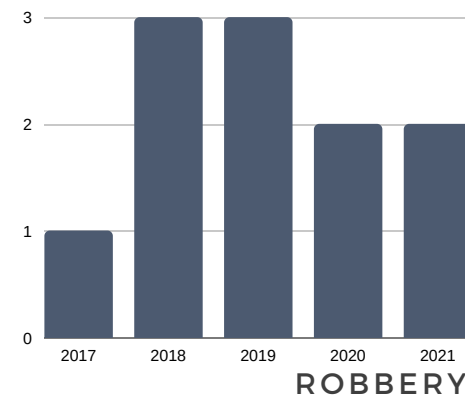
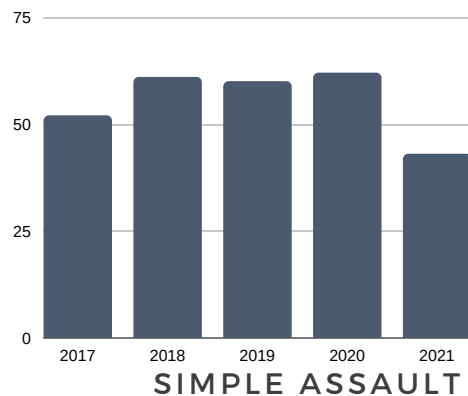
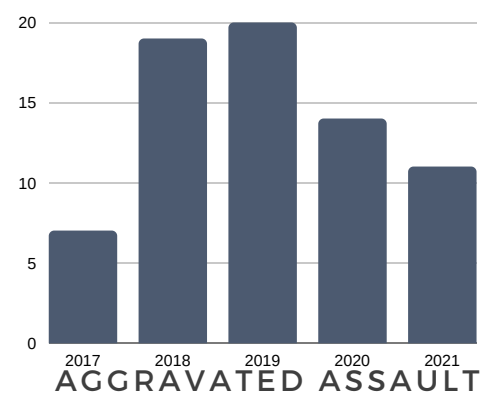
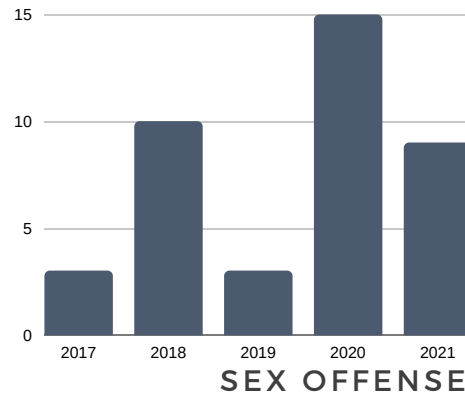
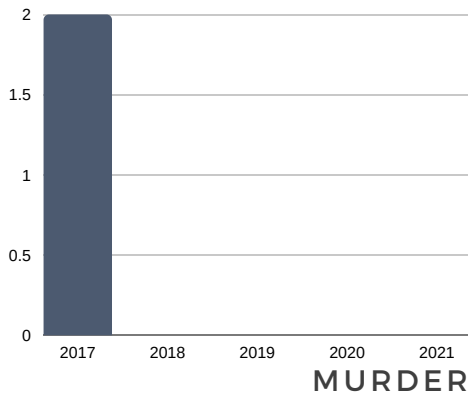
CO-RESPONDER

In June 2021, Erie Police introduced the Town to Melissa Richardson, a co-responder dedicated to Erie. Co-responders receive extensive training in mental health, substance intoxication and treatment, crisis intervention, verbal de-escalation, crisis case management, tactical empathy, and more. Working as a team, law enforcement and a co-responder arrive together on calls that may involve mental health, substance use, the death of a loved one, or another type of crisis. In 2021, there were a total of 168 co-responder calls in the Town of Erie.



2021 CRIME STATISTICS

NATIONAL INCIDENT- BASED REPORTS (NIBRS)



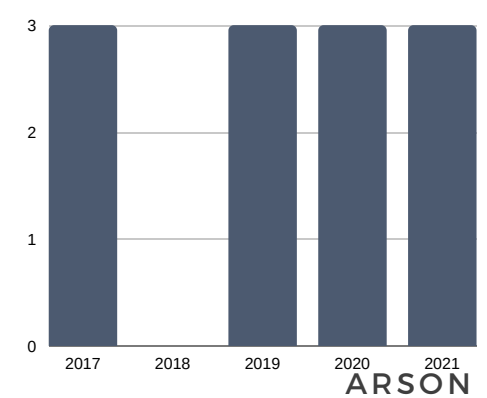
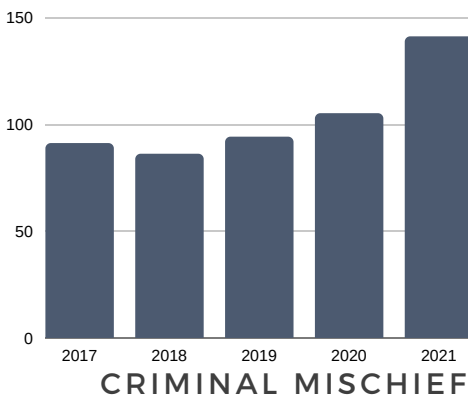
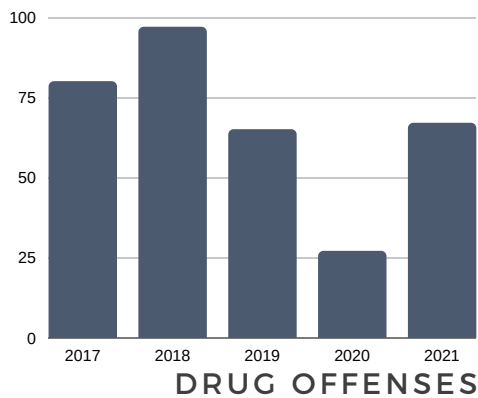
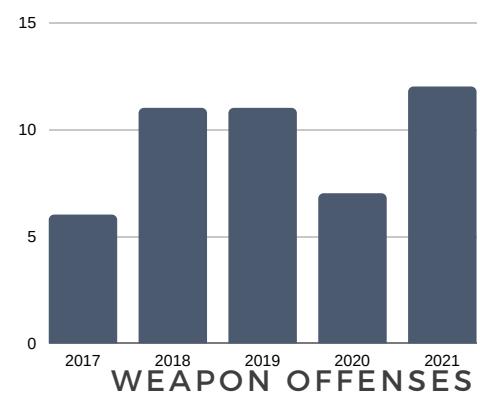
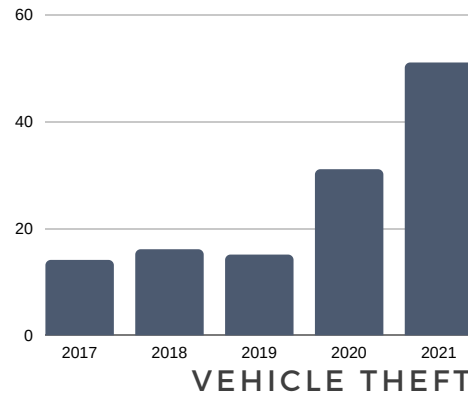
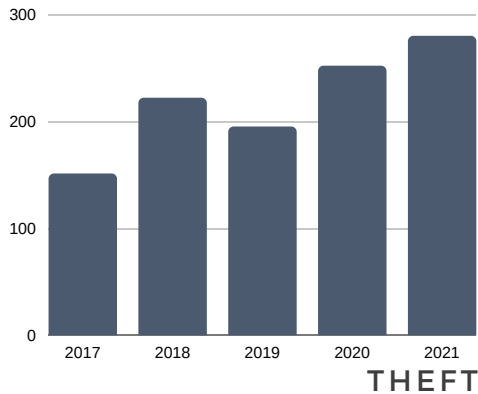
GROUP A HISTORIC CRIME COMPARISON

Each month, law enforcement agencies submit information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the number of Group A offenses which become known to them, those offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means, and the age, sex, and race of persons arrested for each of the offenses.

In addition, law enforcement agencies submit information to the FBI on the arrest of Group B incidents. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) program collects data about offenses in order to measure the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the nation. The program's founders chose 62 offenses because they are serious crimes, they occur with regularity in all areas of the country, and they are likely to be reported to police.

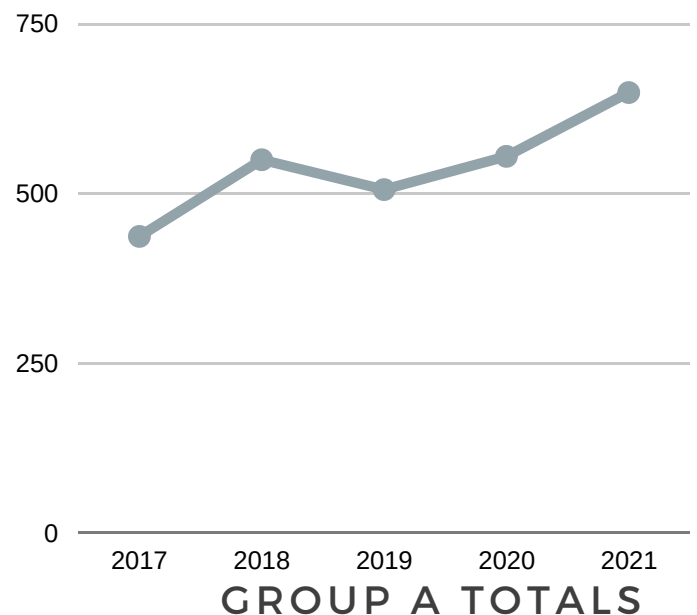
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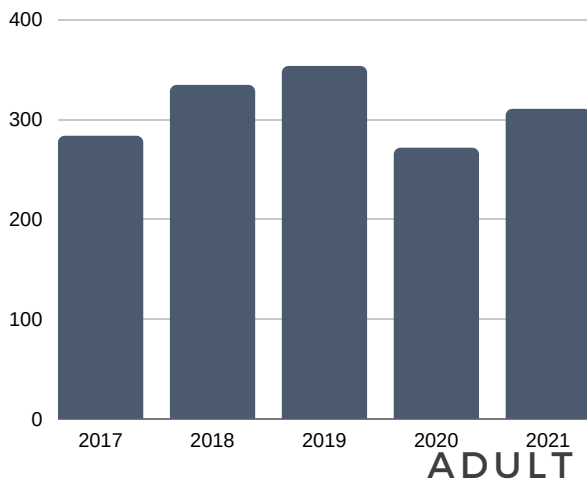
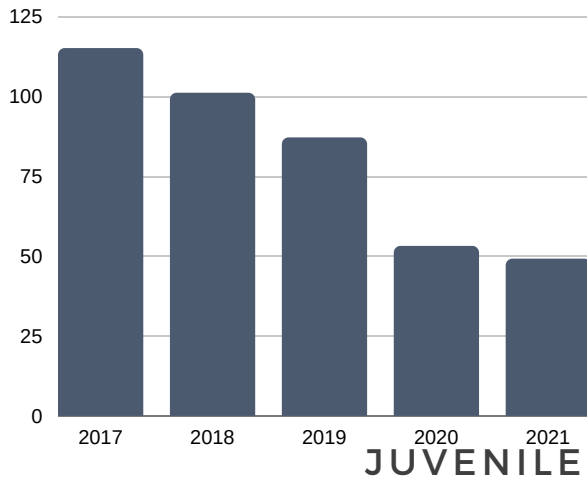


NIBRS is an indispensable tool in the war against crime because it is capable of producing detailed, accurate, and meaningful data. When used to its full potential, NIBRS identifies with precision when and where crime takes place, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators.

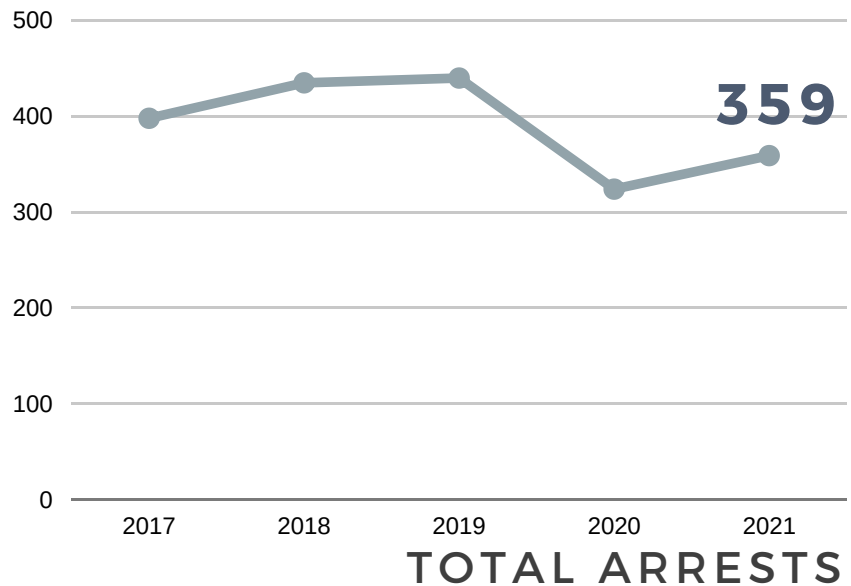
With this information, law enforcement can better define the resources needed to address crime, and use those resources in the most efficient and effective manner.



ARRESTS



The number of arrests include any individual who was charged with committing a criminal offense within the Town of Erie in 2021. These statistics do not include traffic violations, code violations, and other minor municipal code violations which are not reported to the FBI as arrests.



CLEARANCE DATA

The Investigations Section is comprised of three detectives and one detective sergeant. Detectives typically investigate all felony and serious misdemeanor crimes.

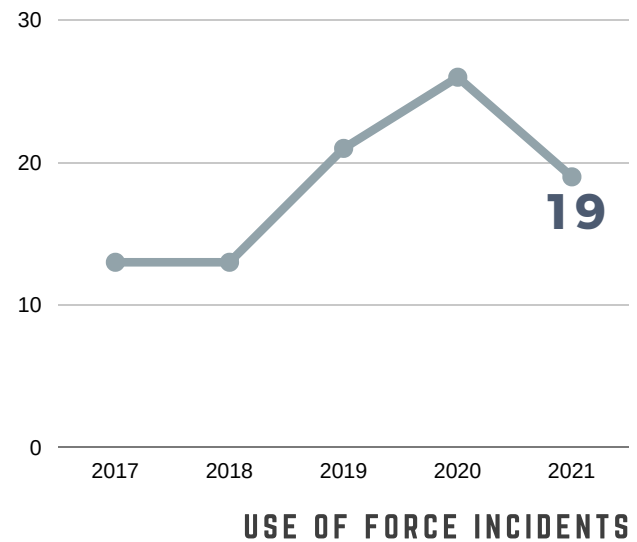
In 2021, detectives were assigned 126 cases for investigations/follow-up and achieved a 34 percent clearance rate. Overall, the department ended the year with a 30.22 percent clearance rate, while the state of Colorado ended with a 24.63 percent clearance rate.



USE OF FORCE

The use of force is defined as any action which may cause, is alleged to cause, or does cause injury to a person.

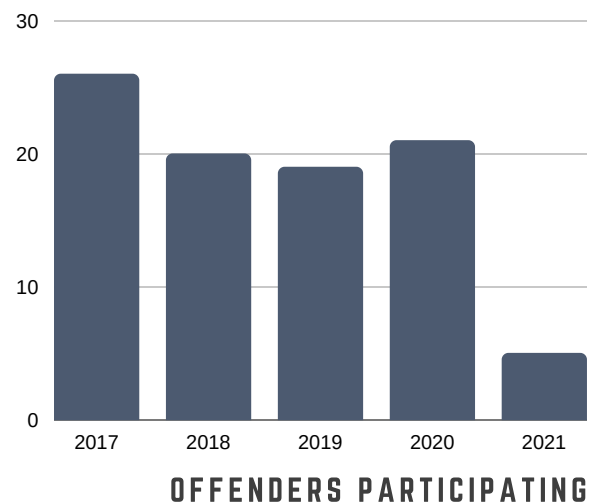
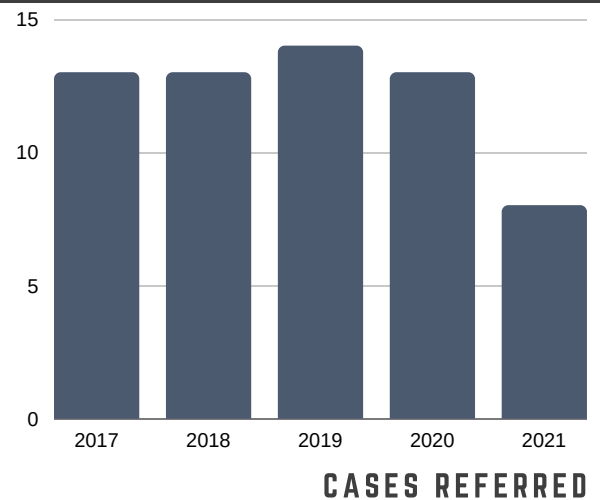
By Erie Police Department Directive, the pointing of a firearm at an individual to gain compliance is considered a use of force.



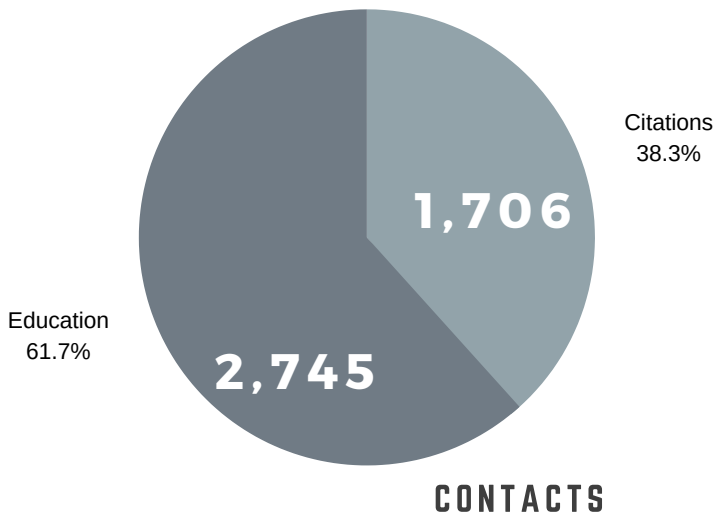
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restorative Justice Program allows first time juvenile offenders, and sometimes young adults, the opportunity to reintegrate into the community as someone who has taken responsibility for their action and repaired the harm they have caused.

Offenders sometimes are required to complete community service, pay restitution or take other approved actions.



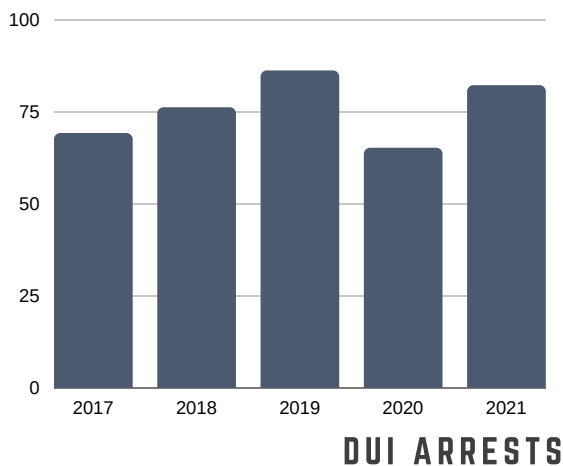
TRAFFIC



Over the last five years and throughout 2021, the top concern still expressed to the Police Department by community members is related to traffic safety within the Town of Erie.

By the end of 2021, the department selected a sergeant and two officers to be dedicated to traffic enforcement with an emphasis on education.

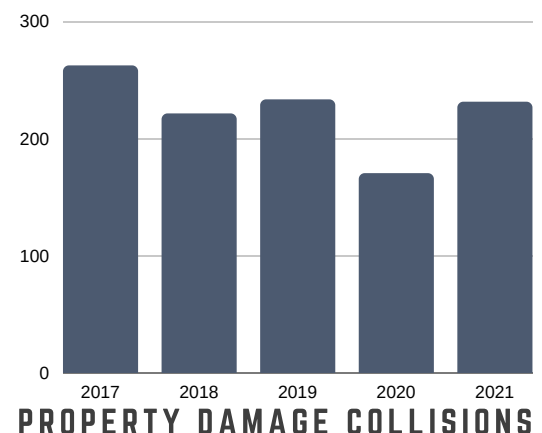
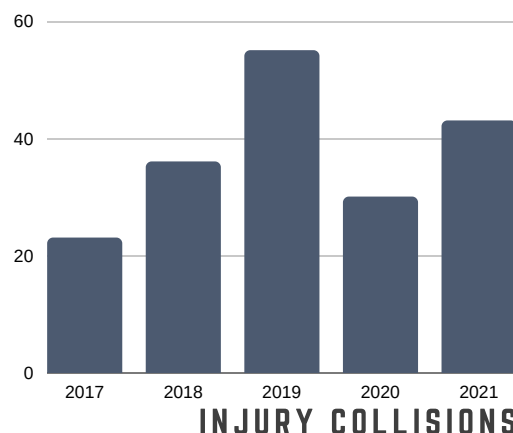
The most common traffic violations of 2021 included speeding and failure to signal.



There was an increase in DUI arrests in 2021, compared to 2020, more than likely attributed to the lower traffic volumes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021...

- Property damage collisions increased by approximately 37 percent.
- Injury collisions increased by approximately 43 percent.

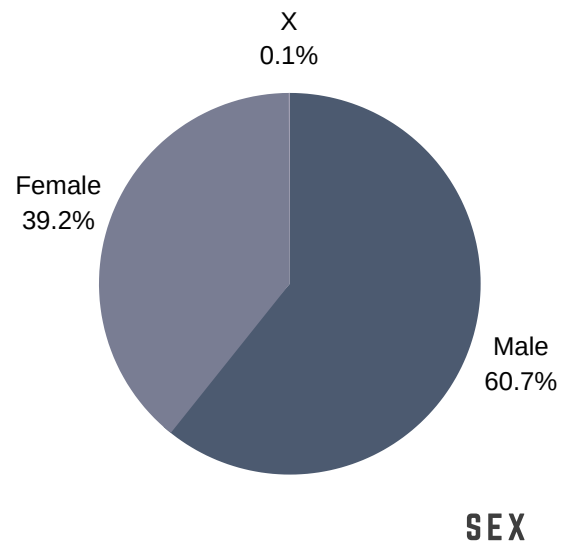
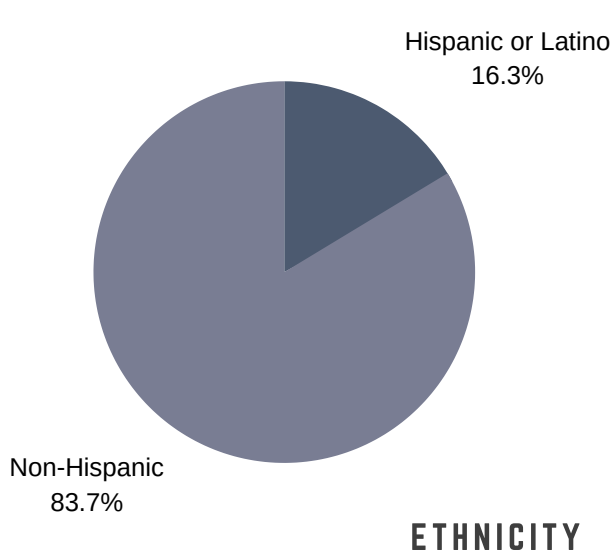
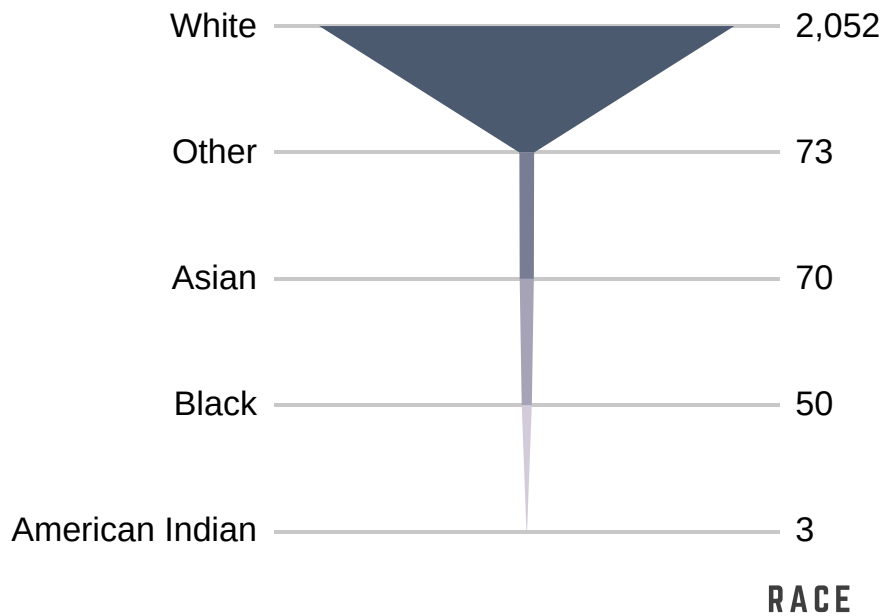


STOP DATA

In July 2020, the Erie Police Department began compiling 'Stop Data' to comply with the requirements of the Law Enforcement Accountability Act, known as SB-217.

Stop Data is described as officer-initiated contacts which include traffic stops, pedestrian contacts, suspicious persons, or any other officer-initiated contacts.

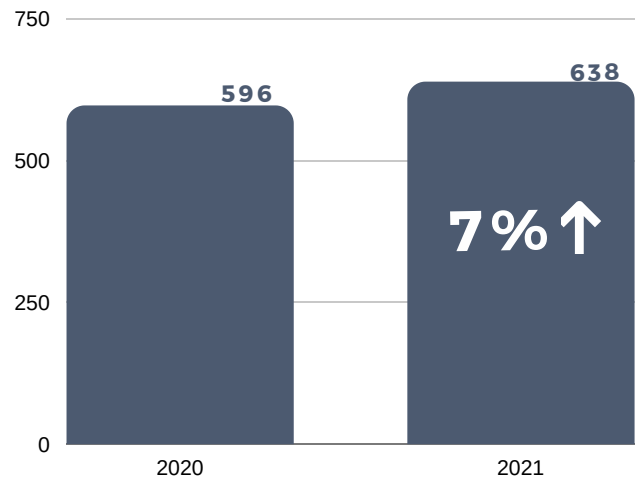
There were 5,387 stops initiated in 2021.



CODE ENFORCEMENT

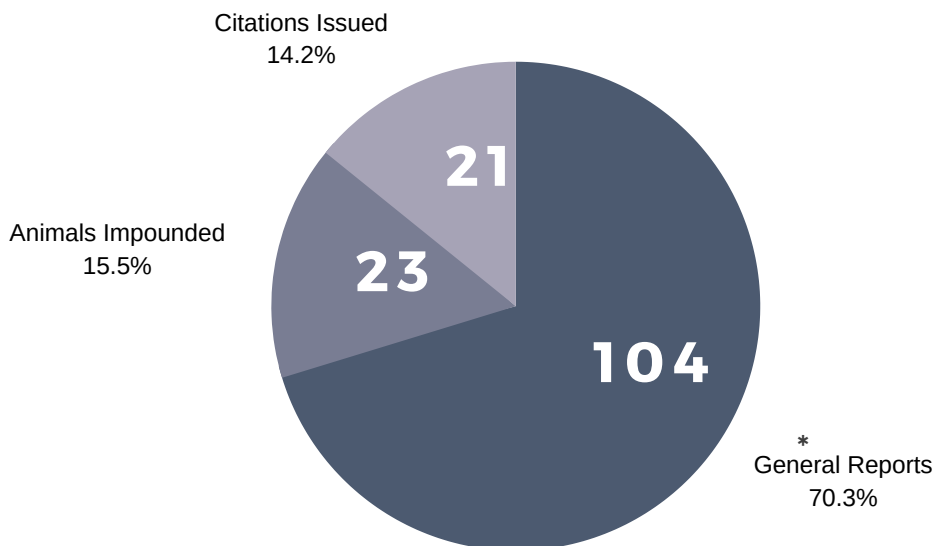
The Code Enforcement Officer addresses various issues within the Town, such as upkeep of property and nuisance abatement. Code Enforcement, in partnership with the officers and community members, work hand-in-hand with property owners to address these issues, improve the overall appearance of the Town and improve the quality of life for all.

Code Enforcement and Erie Police Officers investigate code enforcement complaints and animal complaints within the Town of Erie.



CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINTS

ANIMAL CONTROL



Code Enforcement and Officers are responsible for Animal Control in the Town of Erie.

Every attempt is made to reunite found dogs with their owners - including offering FREE Dog Licenses.

Those dogs that are not reunited, are transported to the Humane Society in Boulder.

*Includes barking dog, animal neglect, dog at large, and other types of animal complaints as well as wildlife encounters.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Sergeant Dave Petek was awarded the Co-Employee of the Year for his strong leadership and empathy, as well as his outstanding job in leading and enhancing the Peer Support Team. He curated podcasts, articles, and other materials he believes will help with his peer's mental health. Sergeant Petek is the first to reach out to injured or sick officers and helped plan the first Peer Support Family BBQ.



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



School Resource Officer James Carroll was awarded the Co-Employee of the Year for performing beyond expectations and flourishing in his new assignment as a School Resource Officer. Officer Carroll seeks every opportunity to dig further for evidence of criminal activity while maintaining awareness of crime patterns and persons of interest. Officer Carroll's eagerness and drive are contagious and have benefitted the community as a whole.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Sergeant Rob Vesco received the Leadership award while supervising the Detective Section. Throughout 2021, he demonstrated outstanding leadership through dedication and a strong commitment to the community and his team. The unit collectively investigated a kidnapping in cooperation with the FBI and the victim's family, assisted Boulder Police in a mass shooting, and recovered two stolen trucks with more than 150 pieces of evidence. In addition, the section handled 102 criminal investigations while conducting 13 background investigations for police applicants.



ANNUAL RESPECT FOR LAW POSTER CONTEST

Anora, a fourth-grader was selected as the 2021 winner of the Optimist Club of Erie's Respect for Law Poster contest. Anora wrote, "I am determined to raise awareness about how much littering harms wildlife."



2022 LOOK AHEAD

Community members provided invaluable input and perspectives to craft the 2022 Strategic Plan, downloadable at www.erieco.gov/Police. The 2022 goals are:

- Neighborhood Crime Reduction
- Promote Traffic Safety
- Liquor Enforcement
- Investigate and File Quality Criminal Cases
- Transparency and Community Ownership
- Education and Information for Crime Trends
- Engage with Community Members
- Education and Enforcement of Code Ordinances
- Maintain and Optimize Training for Employees
- Employee Staffing
- Evidence and Court Software
- Evidence Operations



Future Erie Police Department Chief



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